

THE OTHER ME

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EXT. STREETS OF MIAMI - NIGHT

WE SEE shots of the city. DARK CORNERS where you don't want to be at 3:00 AM - which happens to be the time right now.

- GRAFFITI ALLEYS

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
In the dark streets where creatures
of the night lurk...

- BRIDGE UNDERPASSES

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
...when the city's strays come out
to feed...

- MOLDY STAIRWELLS

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
...the cats, the dogs, the cocktail
waitresses...

SUPER: "MIAMI, FLORIDA 3:00 AM"

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
...there's only One brave enough...

INT. MOTHER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

CHILDREN'S HANDS, rifle through the LINGERIE DRAWER.
Panties, garters, bras...

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
...strong enough...

THE HANDS find what they're looking for: RED SPANDEX, RED
BRA, and a RED BOA.

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
...the protector of the innocent...

THE HANDS SCISSOR holes out of the red Spandex.

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
...the defender of the weak...

THE HANDS add the accessories on his SMALL FIGURE.

BOY'S VOICE (V.O.)
(with bravado)
...the... the... the...

CLOSE ON - FULL LENGTH MIRROR

BOY'S VOICE
THE AWESOME OPOSSUM!!!!!!!!!!!!

SUMAC, 10. Strikes SUPER-HERO poses in his homemade SUPER-HERO UNIFORM.

- RED BRA fastened loose over his dinosaur pajamas.
- RED SPANDEX baggy over Sumac's lower half. Holes cut out in the toes.
- BLACK LEATHER BELT cinches Sumac's waist.
- RED BOA dangles from Sumac's pants, a possum tail.
- FANNY PACK functions as a marsupial pouch. Inside is a STUFFED ANIMAL POSSUM, his head sticks out. The stuffed animal is worn, obviously something he's loved for a long time.

CLOSE ON - CONFUSED DOG

Sumac pretend KICKBOXES with DOBERMAN, the large family dog.

CLOSE ON - STUFFED ANIMAL

Sits propped on the kitchen counter.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Still in Awesome Opossum clothing, Sumac cracks eggs, fries bacon, brews coffee. As he cooks, he play fights - KARATE CHOPS a loaf of bread in half. ROUNDHOUSE KICKS the TOASTER BUTTON OFF - the bread pops up.

CLOSE ON - DINING TABLE

Sumac STRIKES A MATCH, lights a CANDLE.

INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A FEAST is on the table- for ONE. Sumac makes minor adjustments to the table setting. Shines a fork, wipes a glass. When HE HEARS something...

SOUND - CLANGING of a KEY inserted into the KEYHOLE.

Someone is entering the FRONT DOOR.

Sumac peels off the red spandex. Squirms out of the red bra. FAST! He frisks himself - to make sure he's removed all of his Mother's clothing. CREEAAK! The DOOR OPENS -

WE SEE HER SHADOW first...

The LONG, SKINNY SHADOW stretches across the kitchen wall. Room DARKENS... the shadowy figure appears to have HORNS on its head.

There appears to be SMOKE emanating from the shadow's mouth... and a LONG OBJECT sticks out like a SLITHERING TONGUE...

Sumac glares at the SHADOW, scared. His eyes dart to the -
CANDLE ON THE TABLE

The flame BLOWS OUT! As MOMMA enters... her makeup doesn't mask the bags under her eyes. Looks like she was run over by an AVON MAKEUP TRUCK. SPIKE HEELS. MINISKIRT. GARTER BELT.

The smoke we saw? Fumes from her CIGARETTE. It sticks out of her mouth, ALWAYS. And it looks like it's giving us the finger.

The horns on the shadow? A VEILED HAT. The kind women wear to funerals.

SUMAC

It's piping hot, Momma.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

You bet she's piping hot.

Sumac frowns. As DIRTY JOHN follows MILLICENT inside. OILY HAIR. STAINED WIFE BEATER. WALLET CHAIN.

SUMAC

I only made breakfast for one.

MILLICENT

On a Tuesday? Momma always has clients on a Tuesday.

(beat)

Momma has clients everyday.

DIRTY JOHN

I bet you do... hee hee hee.

Dirty John tickles Millicent.

MILLICENT

DJ won big at the tables tonight.
Gets to sleep in Momma's bed.

She whispers in Dirty John's ear. As she REACHES into his pocket. Removes DOLLAR BILLS. They giggle. Snapping out -

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

Help me with my bag, fag.

Sumac grabs Millicent's gigantic PURSE. It's heavy, he drags it on the ground. WE HEAR alcohol jugs clank.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

Hold it!

She reaches into the bag and pulls out a jug of something brown. Uncorks it, starts guzzling. When SHE NOTICES the RED BOA TAIL out of Sumac's pajama pants.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)

You wearin' my garments again?

DIRTY JOHN

Haha, my kid always said your son
is a sissy - gonna grow up just
like his Momma.

Doberman trots in, she preens the dog. Kisses him.

MILLICENT

(to Doberman)

You aren't a sissy.

Millicent and Dirty John settles at the TABLE. Dirty John digs deep in his pocket. Pulls out PLAYING CARDS.

DIRTY JOHN

(to Sumac)

Pick a card, any card...

Sumac cowers. He doesn't want to play.

SUMAC

Night, Mom.

Slinks out of the kitchen.

DIRTY JOHN

Pick a card, sissy.

MILLICENT

(eating, big mouthful)

Better pick a card, Su...

WE SEE the cards are greasy and stained. Sumac picks a card.

DIRTY JOHN
Two bucks I can guess your card.

Sumac nods. Grips the card.

DIRTY JOHN (CONT'D)
Your card is...
(beat)
Now concentrate!

SUMAC
I am.

DIRTY JOHN
Eight of diamonds?

Sumac lays the card on the table. It's a 2 of CLUBS.

DIRTY JOHN (CONT'D)
You cheated. I never guess wrong.

MILLICENT
A cheatin' sissy, he isssssaghagh!

Millicent GAGS. She's CHOKING!

Sumac gives her back several good WHACKS. Tries to dislodge the food. The morsel finally FLIES OUT.

Hits Doberman in the head. Splats to the floor. He eats it.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)
You cheatin' sissy. You ruined my
appetite - and Doberman's too.
(beat)
Go on, get to school.

SUMAC
But school doesn't start for
another three hours.

DIRTY JOHN
Get on out, cheater! I just hope
my kid beats your ass today.

EXT. STREETS OF MIAMI - EARLY MORNING

Sumac trudges through the graffiti alleys, the underpasses, the moldy stairwells... the very same dark corners of Miami we saw earlier.

His only companion is the ratty stuffed possum toy.

EXT. BETWIXT HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS - EARLY MORNING

The GATE is LOCKED. Sumac can't get in. So he -

EXT. BETWIXT SCHOOL - BACK ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

SQUEEZES between a small opening in the fence.

As he fits through, he drops his stuffed animal on the ground OUTSIDE the fence. He reaches back through to pick it up.

CLOSE ON - "JULIO FOR PRESIDENT" POSTER

POSTERS with attractive 17 year old, JULIO line the walls.

EXT. HALLWAYS - LATER

Sumac eyes the posters. He notices ONE of the Julio posters is defaced. There is a HITLER MUSTACHE on Julio. "JULIO FOR PRESIDENT" has been replaced with "JUSTIN."

It's still early, but students are starting to trickle into campus. Sumac wanders the halls alone. HE NOTICES BULLIES congregating in a corner of campus, he walks the other way.

EXT. LOCKERS - LATER

Sumac KNOCKS on his locker three times. It SPRINGS OPEN.

He hides his possum toy in the back of the locker. Covers it with PAPERS. When SOMEONE TAPS Sumac's shoulder.

Sumac spins, surprised.

GARY

Hi, Sumac! Vote for Justin?

SUMAC

Hi, Gary. Uh...

GARY, 11 is a wiry kid. As he talks, SPIT bubbles out of his mouth. He hands Sumac a BUTTON that says "JUSTIN SERVES JUSTICE."

Sumac takes the button reluctantly.

GARY

Walk to class with me?

SUMAC

Uhhhhh...

Sumac spots the BULLIES down the hall. Gary does too. He mutters a "goodbye" and runs off like a Gazelle running from a pack of lions.

POV of STUFFED ANIMAL

Inside the locker. Sumac SHUTS the LOCKER. All goes dark.

CLOSE ON - BLACKBOARD

LETTERS are spelled in CHALK: "J...U...S...T..."

INT. MR. LOOGIE'S CLASS - DAY

MR. LOOGIE, late 50s. Clothes a size too big, braces on his teeth... he's the TEACHER at the blackboard. Finishes writing the word - "JUSTICE."

MR. LOOGIE

JUSTICE. The reason human beings formed politics to begin with. To protect the weak. With the Presidential elections between Justin and Julio heating up-

KID'S VOICE (O.S.)

- Vote Julio!

MR. LOOGIE

I thought it'd be interesting for all of us to pretend WE were political leaders. Imagine: each of you... are a leader in another civilization. What are the laws? How would you shape it?

CLASSROOM

SUMAC is wide-eyed.

MR. LOOGIE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to create a world that does justice to the word, "justice."

SHORT MONTAGE OF SUMAC WORKING ON THE ASSIGNMENT

- Using a RULER, Sumac draws BOXES inside the notebook.

- Sumac DRAWS on the playground.
- Sumac DRAWS at the kitchen table. His Mother and her date toss the notebook on the floor.
- Later, his Mother plays POKER at the table with DIRTY JOHN and other CLIENTS... Sumac watches them from down the hall- he draws in his book.
- At night, Sumac draws with flashlight under his bedsheet, setup like a fort. Sketches the LAST FRAME OF THE STORY...

WE SEE - CLOSE ON NOTEBOOK

An image of AWESOME OPOSSUM, dressed in red leather trench and bustier. Pinned in her hair is a WHITE DIAMOND. She's WINKING at the audience. Sumac writes: " THE END "

EXT. STREETS - MORNING

Sumac walks to school. The NOTEBOOK clutched under his arm. He has a smile on his face, proud. When, SWOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH! A GOLF BALL sails past Sumac's head. Nearly hits him!

BRAD THE BULLY
Wait up for us, friend.

Brad's cohorts, BRAD'S BRO1 and BRAD'S BRO2 chuckle at everything big Brad says.

BRAD'S BRO1
Hehe, "friend." Hehe, yeah right.

Sumac continues walking, ignoring Brad. When Brad tees off another GOLF BALL - SWOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH!

This one pegs Sumac with a THUD! He HITS sidewalk.

EXT. STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

Sumac opens his eyes. Gazes above -

SUMAC'S POV

Brad the Bully examines his NOTEBOOK.

BRAD THE BULLY
What do we have here?
(reading notebook)
Awesome O... o...opp...

SUMAC
 (smart ass)
 Opossum.

Brad KICKS Sumac in the ribs.

BRAD THE BULLY
 I know how to read -
 (continuing)
 Awesome Opossum reclaimed the
 diamond from Brady the Bull and
 restored justice in Darkness Falls
 forever.
 (beat)
 What the hell did I just read?

BRAD'S BROS
 No freaking idea.

BRAD THE BULLY
 Know what I think of this?

Brad RIPS a PAGE. Puts in his mouth. Chews... SMACKING...
 his brothers fight for a piece of their own.

CLOSE ON - SUMAC

Sumac's eyes well. Full of pain. He worked hours on that
 assignment!

BRAD THE BULLY AND HIS BROS

Chew the pages... like it's a fine desert. RUB their
 BELLIES.

INT. MR. LOOGIE'S CLASSROOM - LATER

Sumac is in tears. As he PLEADS with Mr. Loogie.

MR. LOOGIE
 I can't keep sticking up for you.

SUMAC
 Brad and his brothers ate it - I
 swear!

MR. LOOGIE
 That's as bad as "my dog ate my
 homework..."
 (chuckles)
 If you don't present your project
 like everyone else tomorrow, I have
 to give you an "F."

EXT. LOCKERS - CONTINUOUS

Sumac POUNDS his locker three times- it springs open.

SUMAC'S POV

Shoves papers and books aside, clutches his STUFFED OPOSSUM.

SUMAC
Darkness Falls is gone.

STUFFED ANIMAL'S POV

Sumac's eyes are wet, we feel bad for this kid. And we're about to feel even worse for him, when Brad and his Bros LOOM BEHIND SUMAC!

BRAD THE BULLY
(mimic, baby voice)
Darkness Falls is gone, AP.

His brothers chortle.

BRAD THE BULLY (CONT'D)
Know how I know? Cause I took a
shit, saw that possum chick spin
circles down my toilet like a dead
goldfish.
(beat)
Dispose of him.

Brad's bros LIFT SUMAC off the ground. Under his armpits.
SHOVE Sumac -

INSIDE THE LOCKER

It's a tight fit. Even tighter as the locker door SHUTS.

BRAD THE BULLY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
King Tit's gonna die in his tomb!

It's dark, except for a few SLITS of the locker. Let the light in. Cast BARS on Sumac, like a jail cell.

SUMAC
Help! Somebody!!!!!!!

WE HEAR Brad and the bros run down the hall, laughing.

Sumac is alone. Holds his stuffed animal close.

FEMALE VOICE

Thanks a lot. I'd rather have
gotten those thugs instead of this
lousy handbag.

(beat)

You stink.

Sumac realizes he's sitting inside a DUMPSTER...

WE SEE long, red nails. As a SLENDER hand reaches inside.
Sumac hesitates at first, then GRIPS the hand.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The female PULLS SUMAC out of the trash can. Sets him on his
feet. Eyes wide at his rescuer.

The woman is gorgeous and stylish. RED LEATHER TRENCH.
Cinched at her waist. RED BUSTIER underneath. Her hair is
blacker than a black cat. And over her eyes is a BLACK MASK.

SUMAC

Whoa. Do you know who you are?

FEMALE

Yeah, do you know who you are?

SUMAC

You're Awesome Opossum. I drew
you!

FEMALE

You drew me? What you do in there,
eat rat poison?!

SUMAC

This is Darkness Falls, isn't it?
The land where there's justice?

FEMALE

Ha! Justice? You're new here.

SUMATRA darts off. Her heels click down the alley. Sumac
tags along.

FEMALE (CONT'D)

This is DF - but I'm not Awesome
whatevers... I'm Sumatra. I'm the
last hope for justice here. I
clean the streets of corrupt
mayors, cops, Justin and Julio...

SUMAC

I can't believe my wish came true.

Sumatra roles her eyes. Weird kid.

SUMAC (CONT'D)

Where are we going? To Devil's
knuckles? Or maybe "Baldy's
Bowling Alley"?

SUMATRA

WE aren't going anywhere. And if
you don't get rid of that rat,
you're going to get your ass thrown
in another Petri dish, kid.

Sumac notices he still clutches his stuffed animal. Only
this time, one of the EYEBALL BUTTONS has unraveled.

Sumac plucks off the button and sticks it in his pocket.

SUMATRA (CONT'D)

Here you have to think for
yourself. Trust no one.

SUMAC

The Awesome Opossum can trust me.

Sumatra gives him a dirty look.

SUMAC (CONT'D)

I mean... you can trust me,
Sumatra.

INT. DINER-DIVE - MOMENTS LATER

Sumatra bee-lines for a corner booth. Sumac sits opposite.

SUMAC

I can help you get the diamond.

Sumac draws on a NAPKIN - a hideout he labels: "THE RANCH."

SUMAC (CONT'D)

It's here, at "The Ranch."

SUMATRA

You're a little young for "The
Ranch."

SUMAC

No I'm not, I invented it.

Sumatra gives him a cockeye when the SURLY WAITRESS joins, demands their order.

SUMATRA

I'll have -

SUMAC

- A grilled cheese sandwich,
tomatoes on the side and a
strawberry milk shake.

(beat)

Make it two.

The waitress scurries off. Sumatra glares at Sumac. She's offended, but also -

SUMATRA

Lucky guess.

EXT. BRIDGE OF DARKNESS FALLS - NIGHT

Sumatra smokes a cigarette. Gazes at the TRAFFIC below. She looks like she might jump... or fly.

SUMAC

You were a lot braver in my
notebook. Before Brad the Bully
ate it.

SUMATRA

What's the point. It's me against
them. And there's so many them...

SUMAC

Bull the Terror stole the diamond
from Julio. His plan is to use the
power of the diamond and takeover
Darkness Falls - we can't let him
have it or Darkness Falls is going
to get EVEN DARKER!

SUMATRA

Why should I trust you?

Sumac notices a LEG is falling off of his stuffed toy.

SUMAC

(under breath)

There isn't much time...

SUMATRA

If we're gonna get this diamond,
you better dress the part.

INT. COSTUME STORE - NIGHT

After hours. Sumac and Sumatra are alone. They try on various outfits, wigs, and shoes... Sumatra dresses Sumac in different styles.

SUMAC

This one.

SUMATRA

Cherry is my favorite color, too.

CLOSE ON - MIRROR

Sumac and Sumatra dressed in matching red leather body suits. There is a touch of Sumac's homemade costume - a RED BOA sticks out of the back of his suit like a tail.

SUMATRA (CONT'D)

Did you ever think, maybe you're supposed to be Awesome Opossum?

Sumac scoffs at the comment.

SUMAC

I'm not a super-hero.

Sumatra eyes him up and down.

SUMATRA

You're right. You can't even figure out if you're a boy or a girl...

Sumac gazes at himself in the mirror. She's right.

EXT. "THE RANCH" - NIGHT

Looks normal from the outside - just a home in a suburban neighborhood. But on the inside -

SUMATRA

It's definitely poker night.

Sumac and Sumatra stare through the windows. In the driveway are CARS. One of the cars has a bag of GOLF CLUBS.

SUMAC

The diamond is in there.

SUMATRA

They might recognize me. I'll go through the back, take the front.

WE FOLLOW Sumatra as she circles around the back -

EXT. BACK OF "THE RANCH" - MOMENTS LATER

Sumatra breaks into a WINDOW and CRAWLS inside.

SUMATRA'S POV

INSIDE is a small room packed with COCAINE and SHIPPING SUPPLIES.

INT/EXT. PACKING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

She tries to pull herself all the way inside - but she's having a tough time pulling herself through.

SUMATRA
Shouldn't have had that milk shake.

HALF of her body is INSIDE the window - her legs are OUTSIDE.

BRO1 steps to the window. EYE to EYE with Sumatra. Stares deep. He wears a DOG COLLAR and a MUZZLE.

SUMATRA (CONT'D)
Sit. Roll over... Uh... good dog?

MUZZLE shakes his head "no" and GROWLS... GRRRRRRR.....

He GRABS her by the HAIR. DRAGS HER INSIDE by her locks. It's incredibly painful!

SUMATRA (CONT'D)
Ahhhhhhh!
(gets her bearings)
I said ROLL OVER!

Sumatra HEAD BUTTS Muzzle. He teeters backwards. Still clutches her hair. She BITES his wrist. This forces him to LET GO. Whimpering...

WE SEE she's still in the window - seesawing between inside and outside. She tries to pull herself all the way inside - but she's STUCK on something, I mean SOMEONE holds her back.

OUTSIDE - MEATY PAWS DRAG grip Sumatra by the feet.

SUMATRA (CONT'D)
Another? Why don't you PLAY DEAD!

Sumatra KICKS the meaty pawed guy in the face. Repeatedly - it's like his face is a punching bag for feet.

And just when she thinks she can free herself and climb inside - muzzle has recovered. He's standing - pulling Sumatra by the ARMS.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Muzzle pulls Sumatra by the arms. And Meaty Paws pulls her by the legs - it looks like she's going to be RIPPED IN HALF! It's like these two dogs are fighting over a bone.

INT. "THE RANCH" - FOYER - NIGHT

Inside, the house looks nothing like Suburbia. The foyer is dark, except for a florescent light overhead.

Sumac marvels at how his comic came to life. He peeks behind a BLACK CURTAIN - a partition between the foyer and the living room.

SUMAC POV - THROUGH CURTAIN

Several POKER PLAYERS sit at the table. POKER GAME in progress.

There's -

- CHIEF LOOGIE, who resembles Mr. Loogie from school.

SUMAC (O.S.)
Chief Loogie...

- BULL THE TERROR, who resembles BRAD THE BULLY. Right now, Bull fires a SPIT WAD at Mayor Loogie, from behind his cards. In his right hand, he twirls TWO GOLF BALLS.

SUMAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Bull the Terror...

- DIRTY JOHN uses the opportunity to PEEK at Bull's cards.

BULL THE TERROR
No peeking, Dad!

SUMAC (O.S.)
Dirty John... he's even dirtier in
Darkness Falls...

Sitting in DJ's lap is -

- HALF DOLLAR, resembles Sumac's Mother, Millicent. Only this one has HORNS and smokes THREE CIGARETTES, one between each finger.

In Half Dollar's other hand, she drinks something BLACK. It dribbles down her chin.

She whispers into Dirty John's ear. They giggle.

SUMAC (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 ...and Half Dollar. The most
 beautiful and ugliest woman to
 walk the streets of Darkness Falls.

In the middle of the table is PAPER MONEY with JULIO'S FACE on them.

The RED CURTAIN suddenly OPENS!

ON SUMAC

Exposed! The entire poker table glares at him.

BULL THE TERROR
 A surprise guest?

HALF DOLLAR
 A spy, a spy! Here to kill us all!

BULL THE TERROR
 Make that two spies.

BULL'S TWO BROTHERS

We know them as MUZZLE and MEATY PAWS. They appear behind Sumac. They hold SUMATRA by either arm.

MUZZLE
 We found this alley cat in the
 uh... alley.

BULL THE TERROR
 Drop that alley pussy.

MEATY PAWS
 Hehehe... Alley pussy.

The bros DROP Sumatra on the ground. WE SEE her face is beat up, bruised. She gives a look to Sumac that says "sorry."

BULL THE TERROR
 Put her in the pen.

The bros obey. They drag Sumatra and shove her inside a CRATE - one of those carrying crates used for pets.

BULL THE TERROR (CONT'D)
King Tit's gonna die in his tomb.

The table LAUGHS. DJ gives his son a pat on the back. When Bull SNAPS his fingers.

The two brothers join him side by side. He hooks a LEASH to each collar. They sit at his feet. Now, his attention is on Sumac.

BULL THE TERROR (CONT'D)
Welcome to my humble abode.

HALF DOLLAR
He doesn't belong here. Spy!

SUMAC
I'm not a spy.

BULL THE TERROR
This is a private match among friends.

CHIEF LOOGIE
Uh... technically, I'm not your friend. Technically I'm not here.

BULL THE TERROR
Right. A poker match among friends and corrupted officials. Anyone who is not a friend or corrupt official, raise your hand.

Sumac and Sumatra raise their hands.

BULL THE TERROR (CONT'D)
Then why are you here?

SUMAC
I'm here to play for the diamond and to preserve justice in Darkness Falls.

Sumatra groans in the crate.

SUMATRA
Kid, don't come out and say it.

BULL THE TERROR
Julio's diamond? I don't have it.

SUMAC
I say you do.

DIRTY JOHN

Kid knows what he wants. I say,
let's let him play.

(beat)

Pick a card, kid.

Chief Loogie's eyes bulge. Worried.

MAYOR LOOGIE

Since I'm not technically here, I
can't protect you.

Sumac drops a handful of MONEY on the table.

SUMAC

Deal me in.

GREEDY EYES lust over the bills. Dirty John stands up,
dropping Half Dollar on the floor. As he pulls out a CHAIR
for Sumac to sit.

INT. "THE RANCH" POKER ROOM - LATER

Hands are dealt. We're in the middle of the game.

Sumac's doll sits on the table. It's almost unrecognizable
now. It's missing two arms and legs. Only his tail is left.
Sumac glances at it, concerned.

BULL THE TERROR

Raise 2 thousand Julios.

DIRTY JOHN

Meet 2 thousand Julios.

CHIEF LOOGIE

Fold.

SUMAC

I raise 1 thousand...

The table chuckles. As Sumac tosses more cash on the table.

BULL THE TERROR

Another 2K...

Bull adds to the pot. Sumac studies his cards.

Only bull and Sumac left.

SUMATRA

(from the crate)

I believe in you, Awesome Opossum.

BULL THE TERROR
 (mimicking, baby voice)
 I believe in you, Awesome Opossum.

Bull, his bros, and Half Dollar snicker. Bull pulls the
 leash - CHOKES his bros.

BULL THE TERROR (CONT'D)
 Quiet!

SUMAC
 Another 2K, and raise you 5.

Sumac tosses in MORE MONEY. Bull hesitates. Eyes his cards.

SUMAC (CONT'D)
 Short?

Half dollar chuckles. Sits next to Sumac.

BULL THE TERROR
 No pipsqueak sissy is gonna make a
 fool of me.

DIRTY JOHN
 Sissy...

Bull removes the DIAMOND from his jacket.

MAYOR LOOGIE
 You said you didn't have the
 diamond.

BULL THE TERROR
 I lied.

Bull adds the DIAMOND to the pot.

He reveals his hand. FOUR KINGS.

BULL THE TERROR (CONT'D)
 Four cowboys.

CLOSE ON - SUMAC'S HAND

Straight flush. ACE to FIVE.

SUMAC
 Steel wheel.

SUMATRA
 (from crate)
 Speak English please?

SUMAC

I win.

Sumac grabs the pot. Pushes the money towards his Mom, as he plucks the DIAMOND. Dirty John frowns.

DIRTY JOHN

He cheated. Cheater!

CHIEF LOOGIE

That kid didn't cheat.

Half Dollar sneaks behind and opens the CRATE, letting Sumatra free.

INT. "THE RANCH" POKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Sumatra springs out of the gate. She PUNCHES Bull the Terror between the eyes.

In a flash, she grabs the CHOKER CHAIN and ties the brothers up. They writhe on the floor, wrapped with the chain.

SUMATRA

You don't have much time left, AP.

Sumac notices his stuffed animal's head is about to fall off. The run for the door - when CLICK!

MAYOR LOOGIE

You can't leave with the diamond.

He aims a GUN at the duo. Sumac and Sumatra sidestep to the door.

SUMAC

You wouldn't.

MAYOR LOOGIE

Give me one good reason.

SUMAC

You're not here, remember?

Half Dollar burns a CIGARETTE into Loogie's hand. Sumatra and Sumac take their cue to scam!

EXT. CITY STREETS - MOMENTS LATER

POLICE CARS tag Sumatra and Sumac down the dark alleys. They scramble through the city's maze, Sumac in the lead - he knows the way.

SUMAC

I hate the real world. There's no justice. I want to stay with you.

Sumatra picks Sumac up, she tosses him in the DUMPSTER.

SUMATRA

Me? Face who you are, kid.

Sumac peers over the dumpster at Sumatra. He reaches for her MASK. Removes it slowly...

WE SEE beneath the mask is SUMAC'S FACE.

SUMATRA (CONT'D)

It was always you, Awesome Opossum.

She tosses the DIAMOND into the dumpster. Sumac CATCHES. He stuffs it inside his stuffed animal.

The dumpster lid SLAMS SHUT. Sumac clutches the animal, as the tail falls to the ground. And a LIGHT SHINES overhead. The dumpster is filled with light and goes completely WHITE.

INT. SUMAC LOCKER - DAY BREAK

Sumac wakes up in the locker. His stuffed animal is intact. He looks down and sees he no longer wears the superhero outfit - he just has regular clothes on.

He punches the locker open. Crawls out.

In the halls - he sees "CLASS PRESENTATION, JUSTICE: FRIDAY!"

SUMAC

Crap.

INT. SUMAC'S KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Millicent sleeps at the table, hunched over a pile of PLAYING CARDS. He sneaks past her, walks down the hall -

INT. MOTHER'S ROOM - DRAWERS - MOMENTS LATER

Sumac rifles through his Mom's drawers. He puts on his homemade super-hero outfit.

CLOSE ON - MIRROR

Sumac admires himself. When Millicent enters - she glares at Sumac's reflection.

SUMAC spins. Faces Millicent.

MILLICENT
Momma was hungry.

Sumac mumbles a "sorry" as he tries to leave the room. But Millicent blocks the path.

MILLICENT (CONT'D)
You ain't goin' out like a sissy.

Sumac glares up at his Mom. Defiant.

SUMAC
I'm not a sissy. From now on, I'm going to be ME.

INT. CLASSROOM - MORNING

Sumac, done up in his super-hero outfit addresses the CLASS.

SUMAC
Our assignment was to create a world that depicts "justice." My assignment was unfortunately eaten.

Brad the Bully BELCHES in the back of the class. The whole class laughs. Sumac stutters...

SUMAC (CONT'D)
Sometimes we find our world isn't fair... and...

Another BELCH. More laughs. Sumac glances at Mr. Loogie - who looks disappointed. Can Sumac get himself together?

SUMAC (CONT'D)
I learned... that uh...

- SUMATRA enters the classroom. Dressed in her red trench and bustier. She looks powerful. Her HIGH HEELS bring her to the front, next to Sumac.

SUMATRA
We learned that when we have courage, and confidence - we can do anything. Like the time Sumac and I were held captive at Bull the Terror's hideout. Bull's goons almost ripped me in half like a Chinese finger trap!

CLOSE ON - STUDENTS

Enthralled by Sumatra. Listen intently.

SUMATRA (CONT'D)

Sumac showed true grit - you should have seen him! He taught me that sometimes you have to trust others. It's nice knowing you don't always have to do everything on your own.

SUMATRA and SUMAC

Sumatra does different kicks and fighting moves, demonstrating the things that happened. As Sumac does a VOICE OVER -

SUMAC (V.O.)

What does a world with justice look like? It's a world where you're free to be yourself.

The CLASSMATES CLAP for Sumac. WE SEE Millicent is seated in the back of the class. She claps for Sumac also.

SUMAC

I've decided I want this world to be a Just world, so I'm going to be myself from now on. And you can too.

Sumac looks to his right - where Sumatra was, and realizes she isn't there anymore... where did she go?

Everyone's eyes in the class are on Sumac.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

The class files out. Millicent blows a kiss at Sumac, waves goodbye.

Only Sumac and Mr. Loogie remain.

SUMAC

What'd you think?

MR. LOOGIE

A+++++!

SUMAC

Thanks to Sumatra. If she didn't shown up, I would have died up there.

MR. LOOGIE

Sumatra?

SUMAC

You know, the woman in the trench -
who joined me in the presentation?

MR. LOOGIE

What are you talking about. It was
just you up there, Sumac.

Sumac's jaw drops. Stunned.

INT. HALLWAY - AFTER CLASS

Sumac moves through the halls with ease. Kids pat him on the
back, congratulate him.

WHEN WE HEAR - SWOOOOSH!

A golf ball whizzes towards Sumac. But he CATCHES IT!

BRAD THE BULLY

Nice reflexes. Maybe you are the
awesome opossum.

Brad the Bully and his Bros beeline to Sumac from down the
hall. High five him.

Sumac heads to his locker. Grabs his books. He pats his
stuffed animal on the head. Leaves it inside the locker.

When Gary taps him on the shoulder. Sumac calmly turns.

GARY

Hi, Sumac.

SUMAC

Hi Gary, wanna walk to class?

Sumac slams his locker shut. As the two walk to class.

WE STAY on the locker.

CLOSE ON - LOCKER

A Beat. Then - there is a burst of LIGHT inside the locker.

The locker slowly OPENS...

BULL THE TERROR jumps out...

In his hands is the STUFFED ANIMAL. He rips the HEAD off of the stuffed animal. Digs inside and pulls out -

CLOSE ON - DIAMOND

As Bull reaches inside the animal, he touches the diamond - it turns BLACK like charcoal.

BULL

Grins at his find. Hesitates, like he may go back inside the locker to Darkness Falls - but instead -

Bull shuts the locker. And follows Sumac down the hall...